SHUKLA): (a) and (b). No such proposal has been received from the State Govenment. A request was, however, received from the Government of West Bengal for financing the Teesta Barrage Project on a 50:50 basis. The request was not found acceptable by the Planning Commission.

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Construction of Post Building at Banta in Orissa

5776. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banta Sub-Post Office building in the District Balasore, Orissa has since been under construction since 1983-84;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in completion of its construction; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and amount utilised till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Banta sub Post Office building in the district of Balasore in Orissa State has been under construction since 1987-88.

(b) There was some dispute regarding the demarcation of the land, which has been settled. The construction work will restart soon after the possession is made over as per the revised demarcation.

(c) The total estimated cost for which sanction has since been issued is Rs. 15,50,540/- and amount utilised till date is 1,99,356/-.

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Over payment of foreign allowance to officials of Indian embassy in Washington

5777. SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any over-payment of Foreign Allowance was made to the officials of the Indian Embassy , Washington and Consulates General at New York and San Francisco;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. There was some over-payment of foreign allowance to the officials in Missions at Washington , San Francisco and New York while disbursing in 1989.

(b) The over-payment resulted from wrong calculations at the time of the payment of salaries during 1989. Details are as follows:

Mission	*No. of Officers*	*Total Amount of Ever-Payment*
1	*2*	*3*
Washington	18	2,44,843.68
San Francisco	1	15,202.80
New York	14	2,85,575.31

(c) When the matter came to the notice through Audit, it was immediately rectified and recoveries ordered from the officers concerned. The recoveries are in progress.

Dual pricing policy on fertilizers

5778. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government are not implementing a dual pricing policy on fertilizers which envisages a thirty per cent price increase for big farmers and pre-budget prices for small and marginal farmers; and

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose to implement the dual pricing policy on fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLYRAMACHANDRAN):(a) and (b). The State Government have generally expressed, administrative difficulties in implementing the dual pricing scheme. Some of the State Governments have also expressed apprehensions that the funds proposed for this purpose, are inadequate. However, the Government in consultation with the State Governments/UTs have issued guidelines to prepare schemes for ensuring supply of fertilisers to the small and marginal farmers at prices notified prior to 25th July, 1991.

Crop Insurance Scheme

5779. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
DR. G.L. KANAUJIA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of crops damaged by floods, drought and other natural calamities during 1990-1991; and

(b) the compensation paid under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme during 1988-89 and 1989-90, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLYRAMACHANDRAN):(a) The estimated value of crops damaged by floods, drought and other natural calamities during 1990 and 1991 is Rs. 450.17 crore and Rs. 106.11 crore, respectively.

(b) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Sl .No.	*Name of State/U.Ts.*	*Total amount of indemnity claims paid (Rs. in lakh)*
1	*2*	*3*
1.	Andhra Pradesh	225.62	2446.72
2.	Assam	18.03	12.75
3.	Bihar	71.40	109.87
4.	Gujarat	113.83	698.89
5.	Himachal Pradesh	5.02	0.02